

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2608

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011

GRANT OF MINING LEASE FOR LIGNITE

Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Pathak Shri Harin;Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has sent any proposals to the Union Government for grant of mining lease to Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) for Lignite in the districts of Kutch and Bharuch and also allocation of coal block under Government dispensation route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL(SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Allocation of a lignite block under Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is a prerequisite before the prior approval of the Central Government is accorded for grant of mining lease under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals(Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Lignite bearing areas of 3319 hectares in Kutchh district and lignite bearing area of 1251 hectares in Bharuch have not been allocated by the Ministry of Coal to the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.(GMDCL). Hence question of prior approval of mining lease for this area does not arise.

As regards allocation of coal blocks under Government Dispensation route, identification and allocation of coal blocks for specified end uses is an on-going process and as and when the coal blocks are identified and earmarked for allocation, the same are considered for allocation. At present, no coal/lignite blocks are on offer for allocation under Government Dispensation route.